

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15-17 are pending, in addition to the new claims. Claims 5 and 6 have already been indicated to be allowable. New claims 18 and 20 are similar to claim 6. New claim 19 is similar to claim 12.

The Present Amendments Overcome *Yamamoto*

Various claims (e.g. claim 5) are now amended merely to improve their formats, without substantive amendment.

Also, several claims are now further amended without prejudice, in order to expedite allowance of the present application. No new matter is introduced, and all amendments are fully supported by the specification as originally filed, at least by figure 3 and the associated description at pages 11-13 of the original specification.

In particular, the specification of the present invention explains that a size of the search window can be used to increase the acquisition probability. For example, at page 12, lines 9-12 it is explained that areas outside the search window's range can be excluded in the acquisition. At page 13, lines 29-31, it is explained that shortening the search range reduces acquisition problems.

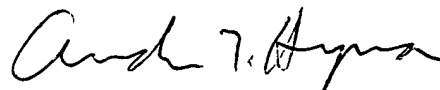
In contrast to the present amended claims, the *Yamamoto* reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,549,545) indicates explicitly that an advantage is that the size (i.e. time width) of the search window does not change (col. 6, lines 33-35). The Advisory Action states that col. 6, lines 11-23 of *Yamamoto* discloses a search window which is "variably set." However, Applicant respectfully points out that, according to *Yamamoto* at col. 6, lines 14-16, the position of the time reference is "variably set" rather than the search window being "variably set." The setting of the time reference is further explained by *Yamamoto* at col. 6, line 25. All of this is done by *Yamamoto* without changing the size of the search window, as presently claimed. See col. 6, lines 33-35 of *Yamamoto*.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and are patentably distinguishable over the cited references for the reasons explained. The rejections of the final Office Action having been shown to be inapplicable, retraction thereof is requested, and early passage of claims 1-13 and 15-20 to issue is earnestly solicited.

Applicant would appreciate if the Examiner would please contact Applicant's attorney by telephone, if that might help to speedily dispose of any unresolved issues pertaining to the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



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